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ANCIENT WOOD? P.2

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(AND OTHER BREAKFAST) P.8

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THE RURAL WORKER

PIPE-SMOKING OLD FARMERS AND
WOMEN IN RED KERCHIEFS ARE THE
TOUCHSTONES OF COUNTRY LIFE
FOR ARTIST GAO QINGRONG. P.4



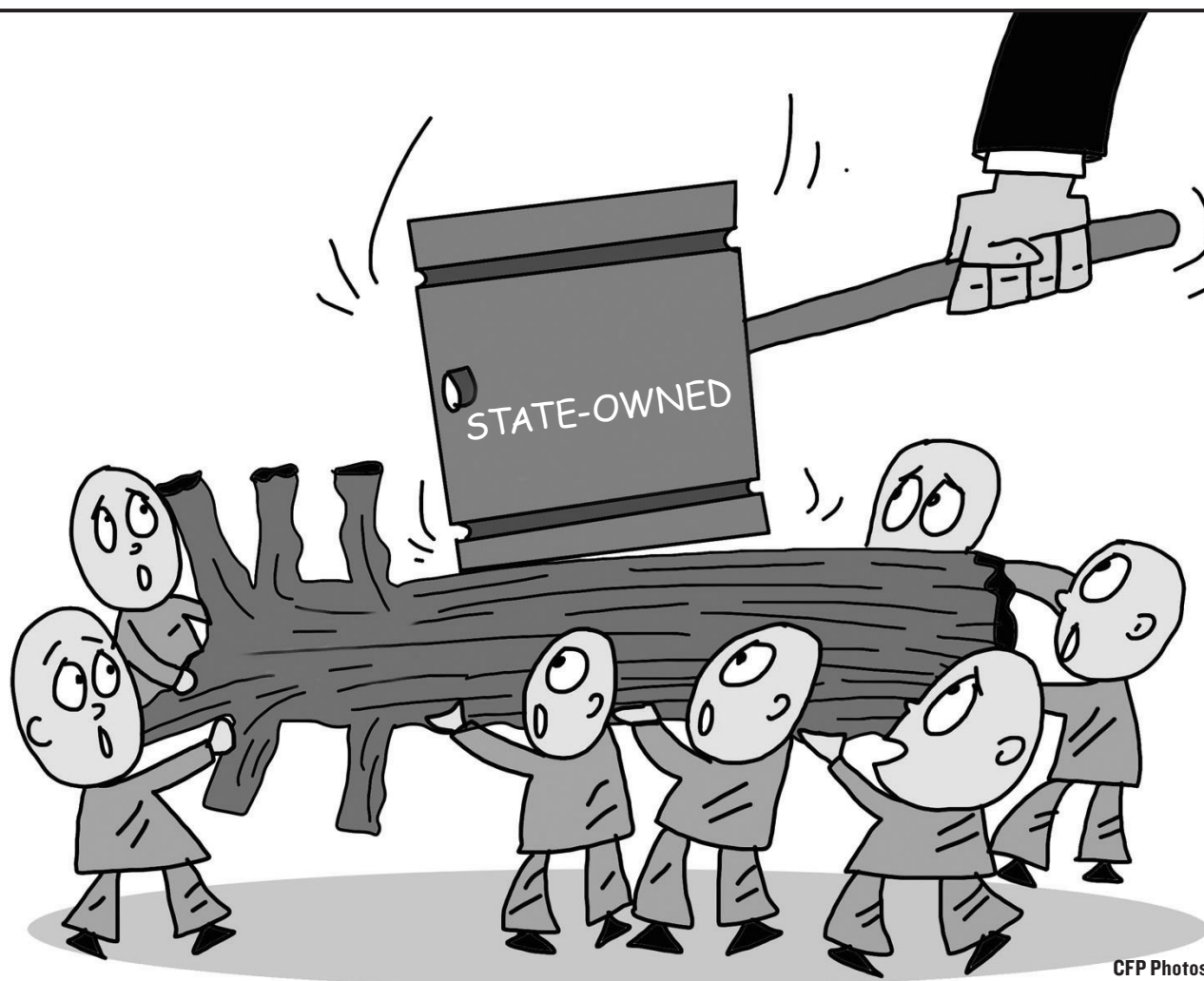
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FEATURE STORY



CFP Photos

War Over Petrified Wood Exposes Holes in Chinese 'Ownership'

BY LYNNE WANG

The discovery and sale of an “unwanted” natural treasure has eight villagers in Tongnan County, Chongqing in serious trouble.

In 2013, the eight men discovered a 30-meter piece of petrified ebony in the riverbed adjacent to their homes. After pulling the piece from the river, the men contacted their local Bureau of Cultural Relics to inquire about who owned the wood. When the bureau said there were no legal provisions related to the ownership of found wood, the villagers sold it to a private collector for 196,000 yuan.

In October, the local government filed suit against the men for “illegally” claiming state-owned resources and demanded they fork over all the money.

A similar case occurred two years ago in Tongji County, Sichuan province. A villager named Peng Gaoliang found seven pieces of petrified ebony on his own land. After hiring an expert to authenticate the wood, Peng learned the ebony had a market value of as much as 20 million yuan.

The happiness didn't last long. When Peng hired a professional team to dig up and transport the wood, the local government stepped into to assert that the wood “belonged to the state.” Ultimately, the wood



Petrified wood always ends up being collected by the local government.

was taken by force.

The government offered to pay 70,000 yuan to Peng, but he refused and sued them. The case remains stuck in China's appeal process.

Sky-High Value

Chinese petrified ebony is a unique material formed from trees that became buried in the silt of riverbeds millions of years ago. Over the eons, the oxygen deficient environment caused the wood to carbonize and take on the appearance of stone.

Petrified ebony is prized for its rarity and exotic fragrance, and it has been regarded as a precious material for classical furniture and exquisite sculpture since the Qing Dynasty.

But in modern China, the ancient

wood went unrecognized until 2008, when the Sichuan Earthquake exposed riverbeds full of petrified ebony. With the increase in public appreciation, the collectable value of petrified ebony has surged upward.

“In the 1990s, villagers who occasionally found pieces of petrified ebony would use them as firewood for cooking,” said by Lu Hongjie, a businessman and ebony trader in Sichuan. “But nowadays, quality pieces suitable for making top furniture in China can be priced up to 100,000 yuan per cubic meter.”

While local government asserts its interference in the digs is “for the sake of the protection of the ecological environment,” that attitude is hard to believe.

“It is impossible for the local governments to ban people from digging up smaller pieces of petrified ebony. But whenever someone discovers a large and valuable piece, the government appears to ‘protect’ the wood,” Lu said.

Conflicts between observers and the local government occur whenever the latter arrives to interfere in a petrified ebony dig. The constant problems do appear to be related to the legally ambiguous nature of the ancient material.

Hole in the Law

As neither a historic relic nor a mineral resource, petrified ebony does not fit under any laws on nationally owned or collectively owned property.

Wang Jianping, a professor of law at Sichuan University, said, “All of the hidden and veiled properties without owners belong to the state according to Chinese Civil Law. Even though the villagers were the first to find the petrified ebony, they had no right to claim it.”

But many legal scholars doubt Wang's opinion. The phrase “hidden and veiled properties” may not be appropriate for describing petrified wood.

“The action of hiding or veiling needs human participation. Petrified ebony is something that forms naturally, so its ownership can't legally belong to the state,” said by Liu Jingwei, a professor at China University of Political Science and Law.

According to the “pre-emption doctrine” that applies to properties without owners, it is natural for the wood to belong to whoever finds it, Liu said.

Li Xianda, a legal scholar in Beijing, shared Liu's view by saying that if petrified ebony belongs to the state, then so do the wild mushrooms and unusual pebbles that people collect in the mountains.

A Privatizing of Rights

But it is more interesting to consider why public opinion seems to be so strongly against the government's claim.

In Peng's case, a poll of Weibo users found that 75 percent of respondents said the petrified ebony should belong to Peng. Another similar online poll conducted by Tencent.com found that more than 20 percent of netizens said the local government should have awarded more money to the finder.

“The first problem is there has never been any transparency in how the government collected the petrified ebony or supervision of what it did with it,” said Kong Defeng, a reporter for *Qilu Evening News*.

Although a few pieces have passed to local museums, more are sold by the government to private collectors without any knowledge or public reporting of the funds, Kong said.

Popular opinion may also be driven by a general anxiety over privatization by local governments, especially those who intended to use their ebony finds to jumpstart a local tourism business, analysts said.

“If the petrified ebony belongs to the nation, then its rights should be collectively shared by all people rather than being reduced to a GDP injection for one county,” said by Shan Shibing, a political commentator. “Otherwise, ‘state-owned resources’ will degrade into ‘county-owned resources.’”

The petrified wood debacle shows why it is so important to clarify and expand on the laws regarding citizens' rights, said the *Legal Weekly* in an editorial. How to find a balance between the ownership of wood and other similar natural resources as well as individual rights is the next step for policymakers to consider, the paper said. ■

MUSIC



Chen Han



Li Shuo



Yang Jian



Daqun



Zhang Yu

Peking Opera and Dreams Collide for Beijing Indie Group

BY DIAO DIAO

Collision Dreamer was founded in 2009 on the ashes of Point Eight, a college rock band founded by leader singer Zhang Yu. Originally named for the members' preference for Zhongnanhai's 0.8 tar cigarettes, the new name was selected for its power and positive energy after graduation forced a lineup change.

"Collision is about how dreams and reality are so contradictory, but we still want to be dreamers. Eventually we decided on the name Collision Dreamer," says Zhang, who now works for a local Internet company.

The band has won some attention for its unusual fusion of Peking Opera and electronic effects. In "Intro," the melody is based on Peking Opera progression with driving drums and dubstep drops.

The collision of opposing arts was another reason for the name.

Zhang says that most of the band's current music could be classified as easy-core, a branch of post hardcore that borrows the melody of new school punk.

"The style of the band wasn't something decided in a moment," Zhang says. "There was a complicated process of evolution and experimentation. And that is still ongoing. I doubt that our current sound is where we'll finally end up."

Collision Dreamer looks to other pioneering bands for guidance in the journey rather than a sound to imitate. After all, for the members, music is more about releasing passion than making any money, Zhang says.

Most songs are a collaborative effort that evolves from a rough guitar line that Zhang brings to each practice session. "I play something rough and sing in front of the other members, and then everyone else starts pouring out whatever they have to augment or change it," he says.

As the founder of the band, Zhang says his role in the lineup has changed dramatically over the years. "At one point I was the manager. Then I was doing guitar and vocals. Later on I ended up being the lead singer and team leader," he says. "I used to think about making good music, but now just try to find a way to let everyone show off his talent. That's how we learn."

The band released its new album at MAO Livehouse earlier this year to an audience of 500 listeners. Zhang says that they spent eight months preparing for the album release show and that the final show was more than they ever imagined.

The band is currently recording its second album and preparing for a national tour.

When asked about the current music industry, Zhang only says that neither life nor music is served by dressing strange and showing off if there's nothing sincere behind the performance.

He also says he longed for more energetic to sneak into the Chinese market. "It's always love songs! I hope that one day great musicians can also have a place at the front of the stage. There wouldn't be any good music without them." ■



Think Different (2014)

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

The Fuzz @ XP Club

The Fuzz is bringing its latest songs from Xi'an, Shaanxi province. The group published its first album, *Who Wants to be a Running Horse*, featuring a post punk sound in the UK in 1980s. "Golden Cage" is one of their newest songs and it is being pressed as a 7-inch LP. The lineup also includes Tiaoshanyang, another four-member band from Xi'an.

December 6, 9:30-11:30 pm

Southwest of the Di'anmen intersection, Xicheng

40 yuan pre sale (60 yuan at door)

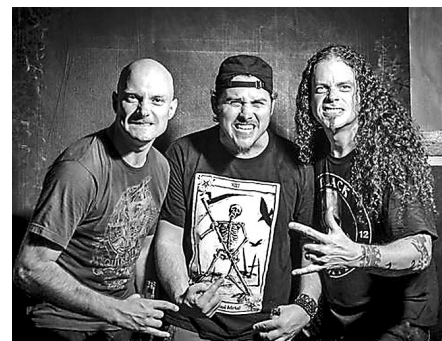
Four Seasons Concert @ Mako Live

Mako Live is hosting a winter concert on December 6 and inviting four bands to the party. The lineup including The Diders, a punk band in the vein of 1970s rock; Shaojiujuntuan, an old school punk group; The Hot Line, a young and energetic rock band; and Ollie, a powerful and positive punk band.

December 6, 2-8 pm

36 Guangqulu, Chaoyang

30 yuan pre sale (40 yuan at door)



Riot! Vol.11 @ School Bar

School Bar is hosting the most explosive free show on December 6. There are only three bands at the party, but they are sure to wow any visitors. Come for performances by Bad Mamasan, a local metal band with members from France and Switzerland, Diguozhuyi Hundan and Guoshi Band.

December 6, 9:30-11:30 pm

53 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng

Free

Momo Tiankong @ 69 Cafe

Momo Tiankong is a three-member band founded in 2011. Although they are often described as "folk," their music ill fits the genre. With keyboard, guitar, drums and the occasional visit from a guest violinist, Momo Tiankong composes warm songs that reflect their positive attitude.

December 6, 9-11 pm

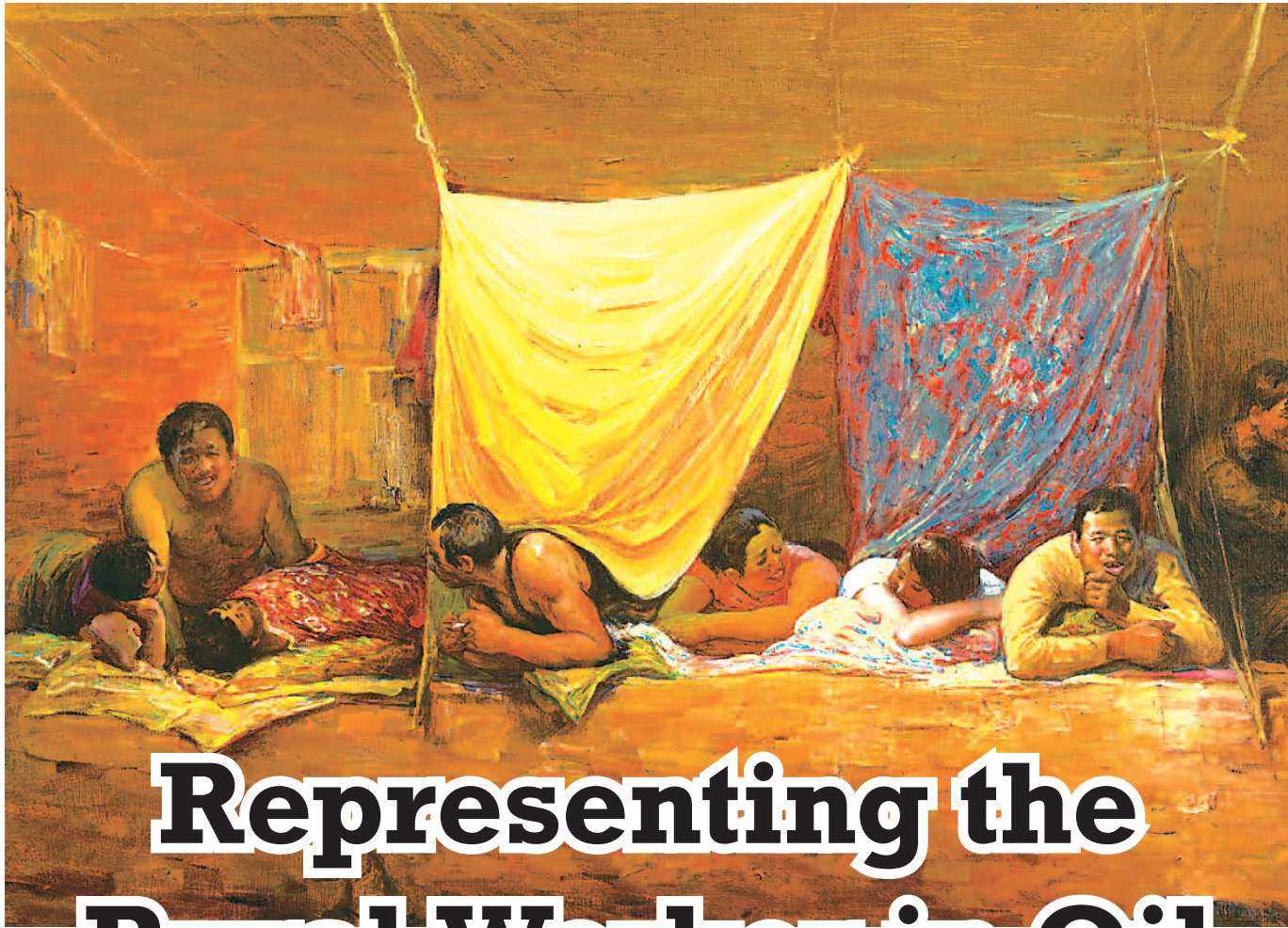
109 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

30 yuan

Photos by Collision Dreamer



ARTISTS



Representing the Rural Worker in Oil



Huanghe Fulao



Wuxiu Shifen



Ganzaoji



Qiushou



Suiyue Ruge



Zhiqing Suiyue

BY SHU PENGQIAN

Even in the new century, China remains a primarily agricultural country with most development and reform efforts being focused on farmers. While many writers and painters have directed their efforts at depicting the rural man, few have focused on the idea of peasantry as an occupation.

Since 2000, Gao Qingrong has created more than 100 oil paintings about village work. The collection was assembled into a gallery this May.

Gao's gallery contains both portraits and group scenes of pipe-smoking old farmers surrounded by iconic dogs and women in red kerchiefs. In *Mai Shou*, he depicts several farmers at work harvesting a field of wheat; *Xi Jiu* shows a drunken wedding feast.

The warm images attempt to capture the spirit of village life.

Rural scenes dominate Gao's early paintings. His more recent work has followed villagers to the big city as they search

for new opportunities as migrant workers.

In one image, five men are shown smoking cigarettes while walking on a construction site. Another features several workers resting in a small shed. The attention to detail comes off as a nostalgic love letter to the industriousness of the countryside.

When being asked why he chose farmers as his subject, Gao said it was because too few painters do. "China is short on paintings that really capture the spirit of this large group," he said. That shortage is what motivates him to continue his creation.

But Gao also has an important personal connection to his work.

Gao grew up in a small village in Heilongjiang province where farmers worked wide stretches of land. His childhood memories feature images of hardworking cattle, ducks floating leisurely in ponds and chickens scurrying about the farmyard. Even after years in the city those village scenes have yet to fade.

"I have a deep affection for villages and their inhabitants," Gao said.

Gao traveled villages across the country to collect ideas for his art. Once, while scouting for ideas in an isolated village, Gao became lost. Thirsty and hungry, he was taken in by an old couple who offered food and water and helped send him to his destination.

"The villagers are so simple and honest," he said.

Most recently, Gao has focused his work on the villages north of the Yellow River. Ancient wisdom holds that people are shaped by their environment, and the geographical differences between China's north and south are vast. Gao said he prefers northern villagers, as they are less influenced by business.

"Northern villagers symbolize the whole Chinese peasantry from the earliest times to the present day," Gao said. But part of that may be personal bias as Gao is indeed a northern villager's son.

Although Gao was determined to be a painter since his childhood, the road was anything but smooth.

"Before finding success inpainting, I worked as a miner," Gao said. His painting *Miner* records memories of that frightening experience and laments the death of friends killed in a mining accident.

Unable to support his art, Gao opened a small business in 1985. He has resumed his art since retiring in 2000. ■

Gao Qingrong Gallery

➤ No. 7, Building D, National Art Building, Folk Custom and Culture Road, Gaobeidian, Chaoyang

🌐 gaoqingrong.artron.net/works_category_15040

📱 weibo.com/p/1005051744860002/

Correction:

On our November 21, 2014 cover we wrote the artist's name as Zou Qian. It should be Zou Quan.



CINEMA



Gao Yuanyuan plays Cheng Zixin



Daniel Wu plays Fang Qihong



Louis Koo plays Zhang Shenran

Modern Fairytale Leaves One Heart Broken

BY DIAO DIAO

Conventional wisdom holds that every woman will have two loves in her life: one a passionate playboy and the other tender and loyal. The confounding choice between the two is the topic of *Don't Break My Heart*, where female lead Cheng

Zixin, played by Gao Yuanyuan, must confront the same.

The story begins in Hong Kong some three years after Cheng, a girl from Suzhou, broke up with her boyfriend and ran to the other end of the country. Melancholy over

the sight of her ex with his pregnant wife, Cheng is almost hit by a car.

When she is saved by the alcoholic architect Fang Qihong, the two start talking and Cheng decides to give him everything left behind by her ex. Fang sells everything except the collection of bottled wines and ugly frog and uses the money to drag Cheng out of her depression.

With a new hairstyle and wardrobe, Cheng appears confident to begin her new life. She uses her last 12 yuan to buy a box of colored pencils for Fang. He promises to show her what he draws with them in one week.

But a chance encounter with the handsome rich man Zhang Shenran makes Cheng all too quick to forget about her promise to Fang. After spotting her through a window, Zhang does everything to win Cheng's heart. But when they begin dating, Cheng grows suspicious of Zhang's bag full of condoms.

Three years later, Zhang becomes Cheng's boss and tries to win her back. Meanwhile, Fang has become the successful owner of a company called Qihong and Frog. Cheng is amazed to learn he works in the opposite building.

As the two compete for her heart, Zhang buys Cheng apartments and cars and Fang cooks for her and designs buildings in the shape of her silhouette.

Initially unsure how Zhang could love two women at the same time, Cheng begins to question herself as she falls in love with both Zhang and Fang.

At the end of the movie, both men propose to Cheng. Zhang promises to give up his playboy lifestyle, but Fang's honesty and tender character ultimately wins her heart.

While heartwarming, critics have called the story an unrealistic modern fairytale. The unlikeliness of two handsome and rich men vying for a woman at the same time resembles a teen novel.

But most viewers praised the moving soundtrack. Although two of the main songs are oldies, the familiar melodies enhance the atmosphere when both men ask Cheng to marry them. ■

Waxing Nostalgic Over Old Beijing

BY DIAO DIAO

Bei Dao is known for his impressive poetry and prose, none of which is more famous than his 2010 novel *Chengmenkai*. Loosely translated as *City Gate Opened*, the gushing work is a testament to the poet's love of the sights of his hometown in Old Beijing.

As a representative of the Misty Poets who began their career during the chaos of the Cultural Revolution, Bei Dao's writing focuses on the minds of youths as they confront the cruelty of reality.

His works use rationality and humanity as the standard of life. Most contain deep thoughts on history, cosmic sarcasm and amingling of the abstract and concrete.

Chengmenkai is Bei Dao's most nostalgic work. In it, he laments the vanishing of the capital's courtyards, the rape of its hutong, the collapse of old temples and the absence of pigeons flying in a blue sky.

Bei Dao throws open the city gate to

welcome back all who have been alienated from their hometown and to lure the young generation to rediscover what made Old Beijing so special.

Born as Zhao Zhenkai, Bei Dao chose his pen name to reflect his northern identity and sense of isolation. After a childhood in the Red Guards, he co-founded the poetry magazine *Today* in 1978.

In the 1980s, Bei Dao began an exodus that took him to Sweden and seven other countries, eventually studying at the University of California and winning a nomination for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

He was invited back to China in 2007 to teach at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He returned to Beijing No. 4 Middle School on October 17 this year after more than 45 years away from his home.

Among his poems, the shortest is "Life," which consists only of the character for "net." ■



Bei Dao



Photos by douban.com

A LOCAL OUTINGS



Times Art Museum

Photo by Organization of Chinese Culture



Photos by Times Art Museum



Town Art Museum

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

Art Zones of the Central Business District

BY LI RUIQI

Office workers have a high risk of developing slipped lumbar discs, a flabby stomach and bulging thighs. But if costly and crowded gyms aren't your thing, you can still get up and away from your desk with a trip to one of the city's downtown art zones.

Start your lunch break by taking in some art that is startlingly original.

Dmitry's Art Studio

This creative studio welcomes visitors with a series of brightly colored modern paintings. For commuters who don't want to make the long trip to Beijing's outlying art zones, Dmitry Art Studio is an oasis in the heart of the work center.

"I forget about all the rules and open my mind when I stand in front of the pictures. It's a relaxing way to truly feel yourself," said Liu Ziyi who works in Shijiecheng.

Established in 2008, the studio is as known for its artwork as it is for its adult painting classes designed to unleash one's creativity.

Dmitry Obolensky, director of the studio, is an outstanding painter and a graduate of Herzen University in Saint Petersburg. As an abstract impressionist,

he believes the most vibrant works come from a relaxed mind free of restriction.

"Too many rules will restrict creativity. Art is a game for me," Obolensky said. "Both the viewer and artist should feel relaxed when they glance at the picture."

Obolensky breaks away from conventional approaches and promote diverse works. In order to draw inspiration from different tools, he even encourages students to replace their paintbrushes with needles, razors and ropes.

☎ 10 am-8 pm

➔ Room 2235, South Shangdu SOHO,
8 Dongdaqiao Dong Dajie, Chaoyang

☎ (010) 5869 2747

Town Art Museum

The Town Museum, opened by Japanese architect Kijo Rokkaku, attempts to uncover the side of the city that people rarely notice. It's a museum of towns as defined by their architectures.

Town Art Museum inherits this idea and develops it into a more complicated notion. It seeks the unknown sides of the familiar through any forms of art includ-

ing architecture.

"We have to jump out from life's rut and discover the charm of the town as an outside observer," said Zheng Shuo, one of the gallery's employees.

Last year, Town Art Museum organized a photography exhibition named In Beijing. The 18 photographs recorded the collision between the traditional and modern as seen by subtle changes in the daily lives of Beijingers.

"Beijing is a representative of what's happening in numerous Chinese cities, especially in its modernization," said Ma Zhaolong, a photographer for Xinhua.

Town Art Museum is currently exhibiting a collection of written characters by Yuji Koiso, the Japanese graphic designer who created the logo for The Village. Koiso said characters can transcend language, and his works feature Japanese, Chinese, Mongolian and Latin glyphs.

☎ 11 am-6 pm

➔ Room 1501, West Jianwai SOHO,
Chaoyang

☎ (010) 5728 9856

Times Art Museum

Times Art Museum has the distinction of being the highest art museum in Beijing. The non-profit was established in May 2008 in one of the Guomao skyscrapers. Its 4,000-square-meter exhibition space features sculptures, photographs and music and video installations. Even operas like *Fernando Pessoa's Triumphant* can be performed at Times Art Museum, as during the opening ceremony of Beijing One International Art of Performance Festival 2013.

Do not hesitate to take the elevator instead of the stairs when moving to a new exhibition. It is said that the elevator itself is a piece of fantastic art. Museum staff are always on hand to help newcomers learn how to operate the exotic elevator.

If you tire of standing, head back to the ground floor and check out some of the cafes. The Food Court in the C Block of CITC Plaza is also only a short trip away. ■

☎ 10 am-5 pm closed Mondays

➔ F35-37 D Block, CITC Plaza,
6 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

☎ (010) 8567 9817

Q CLASSIFIEDS

SOCIAL



T.E.F&MIUZIRS'S FASHION NIGHT

T.E.F&MIUZIRS'S FASHION NIGHT were jointly held by T.E.F, The Voice of China FM and MIUZIRS on November 24 at the bar on the 5th floor of The Place. The party invited 500 VIPs.

T.E.F aims to create a high level social platform by stepping into the Beijing market. It has held more than 110 activities since it was founded in 2011. The theme is fashion and the business includes bars, dining, clubs, tourism, luxury brands, media, golf, fitness and charity.

DINING



Barolo Bubbly Sunday Brunch

Enjoy a Sparkling Sunday with family, friends and loved ones and experience the exceptional talent of Chef Ivan Fargnoli. Barolo is offering the authentic culture and cuisine of Italy with an a la carte brunch that features culinary delights with a contemporary twist.

Indulge in Moet Chandon champagne, innovative cocktails and premium wines selected by the house sommelier. There's no better way to spend a Sunday at Barolo.

Classics of Italian cuisine are served with a modern twist in the quiet elegance and cozy ambiance of Barolo, where dining provides an exceptional Italian experience and defines the Italian lifestyle in Beijing.

All prices are subject to 15 percent service charge.

- ⌚ 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, Sundays
- 📍 Barolo, 2/F, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, China Central Place, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 5908 8151
- 💰 218 yuan for two courses, 318 yuan for three courses, 418 yuan for four courses; beverage packages from 78 yuan
- ✉ dining@ritz-carlton.com
- 🌐 ritz-carlton.com

NIGHTLIFE



8-BIT's 1st Birthday!

8-BIT would like to welcome everyone to its very first birthday party. It's been a fantastic year, and the staff is very excited to host its biggest and best night yet.

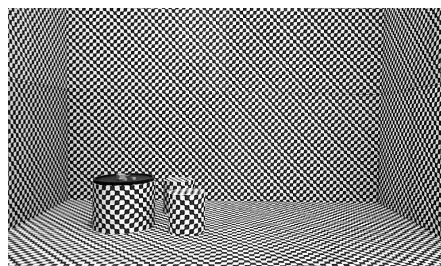
Pints of Kirin will be 10 yuan and all shots 15 yuan.

On the music side of things, 8-BIT is happy to welcome Noise Arcade for a live performance. Noise Arcade is a Beijing based electronic act whose musical styles range from ambient and IDM to the more experimental.

This year, Noise Arcade toured China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore and released albums on Metaphysical Circuits in Denmark, Noise Mongers in Malaysia, and KTR and Nasty Wizards Recordings in Beijing. This December will see its last physical release of the year on Huashan Records in Shanghai.

- ⌚ 6 pm - 2 am, December 6
- 📍 8-Bit, 49 Jiaodaokou Nan Jie, Dongcheng
- ✉ 8bitbeijing@gmail.com

ART



M Home's Exhibition Opens at UCCA

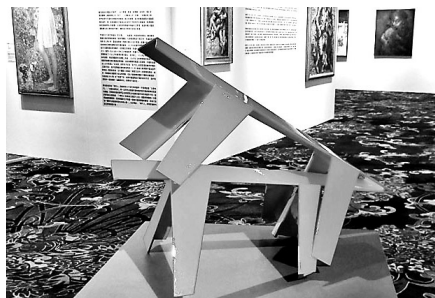
Red Star Macalline is opening a month-long exhibition of 12 international artists, including Chen Wenbo, Yoshitomo Nara and Not Vital, at UCCA.

Exhibited works will show off new home and living concepts. Several artists will visit to discuss the deepening relationship between home and other concepts such as nation, private and public, optical illusion and politics.

The exhibition will focus on place and space. Chinese American geologist Duan Yifu said place means stability and space suggests freedom.

- ⌚ November 30, 2014-January 6, 2015
- 📍 UCCA, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 5780 0200
- ✉ yang.you@ucca.org.cn
- 🌐 ucca.org.cn

AUCTION



Sotheby's Presents Contemporary Chinese Art Auction

Sotheby's presented 56 exceptional works in its Modern and Contemporary Chinese Arts Auction on November 30 at the China World Summit Wing.

Sourced globally within Sotheby's worldwide network, the selection has an estimated value in excess of 50 million yuan (\$8.2 million).

Its contemporary Ink Section included a dynamic selection of works by pioneering artists such as Wu Shanming, Huang Yongyu and Tian Liming to Liu Kuo-sung, Xu Bing and Xu Lei.

EXHIBITION



Late Participation - Zhang Jin 2014

Artist: Zhang Jin
Director: Gu Yan
Academic Critics: Wang Du / Sui Jianguo

- ⌚ November 29 to December 15
- 📍 Yuan Art Museum, 112 Lize Xiyuan, Guangshun Bei Dajie, Wangjing, Chaoyang

COMMUNITY



Understanding and Beating Back Pain

Lower back pain is a common affliction that will affect as much as 90 percent of the population at some point. International SOS attempts to help those who suffer with back pain learn to manage the pain and return to their normal habits as soon as possible.

At this seminar, Kyle Wild, a chartered physiotherapist, will introduce information to help you understand back pain and pro-

vide pointers on which activities and exercises may put an unnecessary strain on your back. He will also provide tips and practical advice about how to avoid back injuries when working out and some basic exercises to help deal existing pain.

- ⌚ 10 - 11:30 am, December 9
- 📍 International SOS, Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building, 16 Xinyuan Li, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 6462 9112 or (010) 6462 9100
- ✉ china.inquiries@internationalsos.com
- 🌐 internationalsos.com

MUSIC



Revocation Live in Beijing

The Boston technical metal master Revocation has been the darling of the extreme metal world since its inception in 2006.

The band's extraordinary 2008 debut *Empire of the Obscene* was one of the best releases of that year in any genre. Besides the obvious influences of Dark Angel and Morbid Angel, the fantastic production, great vocals and intense songwriting keeps Revocation at top of the heap.

Last year's self-named effort *Revocation* once again showed off the band's trademarks of blistering riffs, speed and agility. The technical and thrash-inspired brand of death metal they forge is even more mature in their latest album *Deathless*, released in October.

- ⌚ 8 - 11 pm, December 5
- 📍 Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng (100 m west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway)
- 💰 200 yuan (door); 130 yuan (pre sale)
- ☎ (010) 6404 2711
- ✉ info@yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yoopay.cn/event/20141205

YACHT



- 🌐 www.hackerboat.com



BEIJING BREAKFAST



People line up to get Beijing's breakfast on winter mornings.

Highlights of Beijing's Breakfast Culture

BY DIAO DIAO

For Beijingers, breakfast begins early at 6 am. In the winter months, shops begin selling breakfast while it's still dark and typically sell out before 7 am.

Though many of the city's younger residents are more accustomed to a later breakfast, the city's zaodian treats can still inspire lots of residents to head out in search of a steaming bowl of tofu or wontons.

Over the last thousand years, Beijing has evolved a rich breakfast tradition that focuses on foods that are filling, hot and fresh.

Favorites include baozi, steamed and stuffed buns, youtiao, a kind of fried doughnut that's more salty than sweet,

wontons, hot soymilk and jellied tofu. Fried dumplings and porridge are also popular choices.

Freshness is the most important feature of Beijing breakfast. All foods must be made and served immediately before eating.

The most ordered breakfast dishes are jellied tofu and youtiao. But in spite of the name, the dish is not merely tofu. Tofu jelly is made by ladling fresh scoop of extra soft tofu into a bowl and topping it with another ladle of gravy, wood ears and day lilies.

When eaten separately, jellied tofu and youtiao are nothing special. Eaten together with some salted vegetables, they



Jellied tofu



CFP Photos

Soymilk and youtiao

become the perfect culinary match.

It's worth trying out all the restaurants in your neighborhood. The flavors of breakfast foods vary greatly from vendor to vendor and restaurant to restaurant. ■

Beijing's Time-Honored Huntunhou

BY DIAO DIAO

Many of Beijing's oldest and most traditional shops and restaurants have become lost to the ages, but Huntunhou is still kicking. The famous old eatery serves up Beijing style wontons and shaobing.

Huntunhou is famous for its exceptionally thin wonton wraps that are almost transparent. Each bowl comes with 10 wontons that are precisely measured to weigh 100 grams each. Exactly half the weight comes from the wrap.

The shop's wontons are made fresh after ordering to ensure they arrive piping hot and tasting great. Each shift has two cooks on staff who switch off to make more than 100 wontons per minute.

The stock used to boil the wontons is also unique to Huntunhou. It is made by boiling pork and bones for more than 6 hours. The soup has a thick taste but isn't greasy. Many old people said the restaurant as much for its traditional taste as its supposedly calcium-rich soup stock.

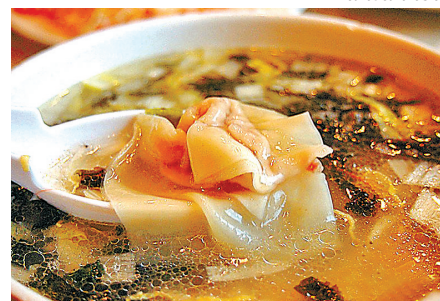
Huntunhou also provides many vegetables such as seaweed and caraway, as well as dried baby shrimp for use as condiments. ■

Huntunhou

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Huntunhou



Huntunhou's wontons



Huntunhou's shaomai
Photos by CFP & dianping.com

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Roll Your Own Wontons

BY DIAO DIAO



Photo by huangye88.com

According to an old Chinese saying, wontons are for winter and noodles are for summer. But you don't have to drag yourself out of bed at 5 am if you want a bowl of wontons. You can easily make your own at home.

The stuffing we suggest this week is one of the most common, but any mix of ingredients can be folded into a wonton. Get creative!

Ingredients:

- ☐ 40g pork
- ☐ 50g leeks
- ☐ 2 eggs
- ☐ 50g napa cabbage
- ☐ 20 wonton wraps
- ☐ seaweed
- ☐ oil
- ☐ salt
- ☐ five-spice powder
- ☐ Liaojiu
- ☐ sesame oil
- ☐ white pepper
- ☐ powder
- ☐ water

The Steps:

1. Finely mince the pork. Add cold water while cutting to keep the meat's texture smooth. Add salt, five-spice powder and Liaojiu to the meat and stir to combine. Marinate for 10 minutes.
2. Oil a pan and begin heating. Scramble and fry two eggs. When golden, remove and mince on a cutting board.
3. Clean and dry the leeks. Mince and add to a large mixing bowl. Add the minced eggs and some salt. Stir. Add the minced pork, a spoonful of oil and a few drops of sesame oil for flavor. Mix evenly and set aside.
4. Holding a wonton wrap in

your left hand, apply an appropriate amount of stuffing to one corner of the wrap. Fold the wrap in one direction to cover all the stuffing and roll. Dab the wrap with hot water and press to seal.

5. Repeat until you have used up the stuffing.
6. Boil some water in a pot. Cut the napa cabbage and seaweed into threads. Add to the pot when the water comes to a boil.
7. When the water begins to boil again, add the wontons one by one together with some salt and white pepper powder. Boil for 5 minutes.
8. Add a few drops of sesame oil and stir. Turn off the flame.